

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A modular convertible top assembly for a vehicle, comprising:

a ~~wall~~ modular support member ~~adapted to be mounted in a vehicle;~~

a linkage assembly mounted to said ~~wall~~ member;

at least one roof panel, said linkage assembly supporting the at least one roof panel that is movable between a ~~first position for covering a~~ passenger compartment covering position and a ~~second~~ stowed position;

a hydraulic ~~control~~ system connected to said linkage assembly and operably ~~for controllably~~ retracting and extending said linkage assembly, said hydraulic ~~control~~ system including a hydraulic pump mounted to said member wall; and

an electronic control unit mounted to said member wall ~~and in communication,~~ said electronic control unit being connected with said hydraulic ~~control~~ system for activating said hydraulic control system for controllably retracting and extending said linkage assembly;

said electronic control unit operably controlling at least one of: (a) a window defroster, (b) a latch motor, (c) a window regulator motor, and (d) a lamp.

2. (currently amended) The modular convertible top assembly according to claim 1, wherein said member wall includes a removable bulkhead panel, said electronic control unit, and said hydraulic pump are mounted to said removable panel.

3. (original) The modular convertible top assembly according to claim 2, further comprising a sound system speaker mounted to said removable panel.

4. (currently amended) The modular convertible top assembly according to claim 5 [[1]], further comprising a sound system speaker mounted to said wall.

5. (currently amended) A modular convertible top assembly for a vehicle, comprising:

a wall member adapted to be mounted in a vehicle;

a linkage assembly mounted to said wall, said linkage assembly supporting at least one roof panel that is movable between a first position for covering a passenger compartment and a second stowed position;

a hydraulic control system connected to said linkage assembly for controllably retracting and extending said linkage assembly, said hydraulic control system including a hydraulic pump mounted to said wall;

an electronic control unit mounted to said wall and in communication with said hydraulic control system for activating said hydraulic control system for controllably retracting and extending said linkage assembly; and ~~The modular convertible top assembly according to claim 1, further comprising~~

a hold down bracket assembly mounted to said wall, said hold down bracket assembly adapted to lock said linkage assembly in said second stowed position.

6. (currently amended) A method of assembly for a convertible top assembly to a vehicle, the method comprising:

(a) mounting a pair of extendable linkage assemblies to a bulkhead panel wall member, said pair of extendable linkage assemblies being attached to a convertible roof supporting at least one cover panel;

(b) mounting an electronic control unit to said ~~wall~~ member;

(c) mounting a hydraulic pump to said ~~wall~~ member and connecting said hydraulic pump to said extendable linkage assembly; and

(d) mounting said preassembled, modular ~~wall~~ member to said vehicle after steps (a), (b) and (c) with said pair of extendable linkage assemblies, said electronic control unit and said hydraulic pump mounted to said wall member.

7. (currently amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein said bulkhead panel ~~hydraulic pump and said electronic controller are mounted to a removable panel of said wall member~~ is removable from the vehicle in a non-destructive manner.

8. (currently amended) A modular convertible top assembly for a vehicle, comprising:

a ~~wall~~ member adapted to be mounted to a body structure of a vehicle;

a linkage assembly mounted to said ~~wall~~ member, said linkage assembly supporting at least one roof panel that is movable between a first position for covering a passenger compartment and a second stowed position; and

at least one guide pin disposed on one of said member ~~mounting-wall~~ and said body structure of the vehicle, and at least one mounting hole disposed on the other of said member ~~mounting-wall~~ and said body structure, said at least one guide pin and said at least one mounting hole cooperating to define a positioning guide when said ~~wall~~ member is assembled to said body structure.

9. (currently amended) The modular convertible top assembly according to claim 8, further comprising a hydraulic control system connected to said linkage assembly for controllably retracting and extending said linkage assembly, said hydraulic control system including a hydraulic pump mounted to said ~~wall~~ member.

10. (currently amended) The modular convertible top assembly according to claim 9, further comprising an electronic control unit mounted to said member ~~wall~~ and in communication with said hydraulic control system for activating said hydraulic control system for controllably retracting and extending said linkage assembly.

11. (new) The modular convertible top assembly according to claim 8 wherein the at least one roof panel comprises at least two hard-top, convertible roof panels.

12. (new) The modular convertible top assembly according to claim 8 wherein the member is a bulkhead panel.

13. (new) The method according to claim 6 wherein the convertible roof includes at least two substantially rigid, hard-top panels.

14. (new) The method according to claim 6 wherein the bulkhead panel member is a seat back panel.

15. (new) A preassembled convertible roof module comprising:
a panel having a substantially vertically planar orientation;
a top stack linkage system mounted on the panel prior to final vehicle assembly;
a latch motor; and
an electronic controller mounted on the panel, the electronic controller being operable to control the latch motor.

16. (New) The module according to claim 15 further comprising a convertible roof coupled to the linkage system prior to final vehicle assembly.

17. (New) The module according to claim 16 wherein the convertible roof includes at least one retractable hard-top exterior roof panel.

18. (New) The module according to claim 15 further comprising a hydraulic pump mounted on the panel prior to final vehicle assembly.

19. (New) The module according to claim 15 further comprising at least one guide pin projecting from the panel to assist in final vehicle assembly.

20. (New) The module according to claim 15 further comprising a threaded attachment system coupled to the panel to assist in final vehicle assembly and allow the panel to be removable from the vehicle.

21. (New) The modular convertible top assembly according to claim 1, wherein the electronic control unit operably controls at least a window defroster and a latch motor.

22. (New) The modular convertible top assembly according to claim 1, wherein the modular support member is a wall aligned on a substantially vertical plane and substantially extending between a vehicle floor and a vehicle beltline.

23. (New) The modular convertible top assembly according to claim 1, wherein the at least one roof panel comprises at least two hard-top, convertible roof panels.